

"And there below lies Mos Eisley. You will never find a more wretched
hive of scum and villany."

"Aw, Ben, you've just been reading all that 79Id black press in

THE NEW

48

BRUTUS

Halloween
Issue

BULLETIN

ET TU, BRUTE

The New Brutus Bulletin

is a newsletter of postal Diplomacytm produced by John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 526-Q, Moore, Oklahoma 73165 every few weeks. tnBB specializes in FAST games, black press, and anything else that will xerox. Contributions of all kinds are welcome. Subs are available at 12/\$4. There are OPENINGS in a two-week-deadline game and a 10-Day deadline game (under a guest gamemaster). Gamefee is \$2 plus sub, or \$3 withOUT sub for the 2-weeker, \$4 flat fee for the 10-Day Special #4. Adjudications are mailed to players on deadline day, and all press is printed as a rule.

THIS ISSUE is one I thought I might be able to send out short, i.e., within the ONE oz limit for a change. There'd be 2 game sheets, a cover, and the two sheets carried over from #47. But no such luck. Instead I find 7 sheets, with more stuff still to go...anyhow, the Campaign Statement from Bill LaFosse and the Pacificon review done at Dave Grabar's request will both appear here, so at least I'm catching up if not caught up. The "LATE NOTES" under Blind Mad~~man~~ #2 last issue said that I'd have to have the game pages squeezed out, but instead I kent them and carriedover these other items (Grabar and LaFosse) to this issue. Plus lots more added. Anyone want to send in something for issue #50 coming up? The one contribution I've received in that vein so far has been a letter from Tony Watson (RURITANIA) asking me to write something for HIS 50th issue. Hmmm.

RELIABLE, ESTABLISHED OPENINGS are damn hard to find these days, so it is news when LEE KENDTER has openings. He has, thanks to games ending, 3 or 4 spots in his game #11 where Bernie Oaklyn is signed up, and 7 openings in his prospective game #12. Sign up in #11 and suicide out vs "Bernie" as a hobby service, or sign up in #12 for a game with all decent folk instead of just 5 of the other 6. 4347 Benner Street, Philadelphia, PA 19135. Next, I see in the latest EGGNOG that Konrad Baumeister (who also has regular openings, I believe) permits and even encourages black press! That's news to me; I hadn't realized that. A good black press game is darn hard to find anymore, so if you like it as I do, try this one out. EGGNOG also is among the most reliable you'll find, though the repro is sometimes weak. 11416 Parkview Lane, Hales Corners, WI 53130. Ask for a current sample, win his trivia quiz, and earn yourself a few free issues of it!

DIPLOMACY is a game invented by Alan Calhamer and copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Game Company, 2217 Harford Rd or thereabouts, Baltimore 21214. Excerpts from CONSERVATIVE DIGEST are with permission, 7777Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA

JOHN'S NOTES

Well, here's another BB back again already. This issue is someth. of a "clear the boat" issue for me, in order to reduce the backlog of material building up too rapidly for me to handle in my preferred more leisurely pace. So, whatever it is, a week or 10 days or 2 weeks since the last, here's the next. I promise not to put another in your mailbox for at least three more weeks, fair enough?

Enclosed are a raft of letters about which I need to make some notes. The first one in the reduced section is a form letter sent out by Eric Ozog. The numbers on it were added by Kelley, the 2d writer in that section, to refer to his own notes. Ozog's name was sliced off, and perhaps one line of John Kelley's text. To those of you who are sick to death of all this Oaklyn bickering, skip the entire reduced section except the little newspaper clipping on the last page of it. If you received one of the H.D. Bassett letters, I would ask that you read Mark Berch's response to it. Both are on the same reduced page for your convenience. (and mine, of course).

THIS ISSUE will have a slightly higher print run than usual, but due to new subscribers and traders, the complimentary copies will get the squeeze. Those of you getting curiosity or friendship copies may expect to miss a couple now and then.

Got a nice call last night from Bill LaFosse (Toronto Telegram) who just wanted to BS at his expense. Nice gesture. I learned he's a policeman, a good, socially useful job to have (those are rare anymore); beer in Norway is \$1.26 a bottle with Canada's depreciated money; and got some insights as to how other hobby characters are seen, etc. Bill, if the phone bill runs over \$30, let me know and I'll add a few issues onto our trade. (126 Bay Street #24, Trenton, Ontario K8V 1H8)

RON BROWN (Murdin' Ministers) has openings in Avalon Hill's multi-player game SUBMARINE for \$2 plus subscription. I'm not familiar with it, but if you are, inquire from Ron at 1528 El Sereno Place, Bakersfield, CA 93304. Or if you prefer larger scale combat, how about

WORLD WAR III? Openings in it are available from JACK BRAWNER, 14906 N Bayshore, Madeira Beach, Florida 33708. \$2 refundable deposit, other costs as yet undetermined. Maps are available from Bob Sergeant as well. Write Jack (publisher of The FLYING DUTCHMAN) and make arrangements. (813) 397-8163

I'll cut this month's NOTES short in order to get this issue out this weekend. Then we can both take a break!

Energy Management

September 26, 1979

Oh, I forgot to mention my response to Costikyan. The parallel between "dregs" and "women" in service is unintentional. It just seems so due to poor positioning of the 2 lines.

VW Wins 1980 Mileage Ratings

Volkswagen Rabbits finished number one (five-speed manual transmission; 42 miles per gallon) and two (four-speed; 40 miles per gallon) in the Environmental Protection Agency's fuel economy ratings for 1980 model automobiles. The Dodge Colt and Plymouth Champ tied for third with 37 mpg; the Honda Civic and two VW Dashers were next with 36 mpg; and slightly larger-engined models of the Dodge Colt, Honda Civic, and Plymouth Champ rounded out the top ten with 35 mpg. The lowest rated car was a Rolls-Royce with 10 mpg.

OCT 24, 1979

DEAL MONARCHY REGAINS HOMELAND. POR, BUL FALL!

Fall 1903

REVISED

Summer, 1903: German A Tyo r MUN

AUSTRIA (Henthorn): A Tri-TYO; A Bud-VIE; F Alb-TRI; A SER S F Alb-Tri

ENGLAND (Hayner): F NTH-Den; F SKA & A SWE S F Nth-Den; F EDI-Nth;
F ENG S F Edi-Nth

FRANCE (Kelley): A PIE S AUSTRIAN A Tri-Ven/NSO; F SPAsc H; F MAR S F SPAsc;
F BRE H; A GAS S F Bre

GERMANY (Mitchell): A BEL S F Hol; F HOL S A Bel; F HLG & A KIE S F Den;
F DEN S F Hlg; A MUN S AUSTRIAN A Tri-Tyo

ITALY (Frost): A ROM S A Ven; A VEN H; F Mid-POR; F Wes-GLYO; A Tyo-BOH

RUSSIA (Grabar): NMR! F STPsc, As WAR & MOS H

TURKEY (Becker): F Bulsc-AEG; A Ank-BUL; F BLA C A Ank-Bul; A Rum-UKR;
A SEV S A Rum-Ukr

The two winter 03 adjustments and SPRING, 1904 will be due with my mail received at the office address SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1979, and may be conditional on the adjustments. Press follows 1903 in review.

1903:	A: Vie Bud Ser Gre TRI	5	build 1
	E: Home Nwy Swe	5	even
	F: Home P Spa	4	remove 1
	G: Home Bel Hol Den	6	even
	I: Home Tun T POR	5	even
	R: StP Mos War	3	even
	T: Home Rum Sev BUL	6	build 1
	Neutral : B	0	-1
		34	

79 CK Press

(Yellow Press): Diplomacy is Jack Frost nipping at your ear. (Many times, many ways).

Berlin: I suck.

Don't I like head

LONDON-BEST: Your services (?) are no longer needed.

SKYRAV: Don't look at me, Kenny. I'm not the one who predicted you'd be eliminated in 1903.

BREST-ABULIA: Anything else I can help you with? Su port you into Portugal perhaps? Sit down, make yourself comfortable, have a cigar, take my wife-- please...

ATLANTA-ANKRA: Make me look like a fool will you. I'm betting you don't fit into Russia's long range plans. Just take a look at the F DIAL

CLYDE-BROMAN: Sorry-I can't stab Michael as you suggest. And I promise not to tell Kador you're moving to Wichita in 1903.

SEMINA-WALLES: Look, Ethelred, I told you I'd ship the stuff myself. Now get your ass out of the lion's or the deal's off.

104 Box 131 E
Lockport, IL 60441
October 20, 1979

October 20, 1979

GERMANY TAKES A POWDER. TURKEY TAKES IT ON THE CHIN.

RUSSIA retreats A War-MOS

FRANCE disbands A Bel. F Mid

GERMANY disbands A-Par; (No Orders Received)

ITALY builds F ROM, F NAP

TURKEY builds F SMY

Still some openings in the 4th 10-day-deadline game!

AUSTRIA (Kador):

A WAR holds; A SIL sup A War; A BUD sup A Ser;
A SER sup Italian F Ion-Gre; F ALB sup Italian
F Ion-Gre

ENGLAND (Howe):

A LON holds; A Hol-BEL; F ENG sup A Hol-Bel;
F Nth-BEL; F Ska-NTH

FRANCE (Sniegowski):

A Bre-PAR; A GAS sup A Bre-Par

GERMANY (Pilot):

(NMR) A MUN, A KIE, A RUH hold; F Hel disloaged, retreat to Hol or disband

ITALY (McMahon):

F Spa(s.c.)-MID; A MAR-Gas; A TYR hold; F Rom-TYN;
F Ion-GRE; F Nap-ION

RUSSIA (Michalaki):

F DEN sup English F Nth-Hel; F BAL-Liv; A MOS-Liv;
A Ukr-GAL; F BLA sup A Rum; A RUM sup Turkish
A Gre-Ser

TURKEY (Osuch):

F Smy-EAS; A Ank-CON; F BUL(s.c.)-Gre; F AEG sup
F Bul(s.c.)-Gre; A Gre-Ser, dislodged, destroyed

In 1901, you were asked to vote on separate Winter and Spring seasons. One of you responded. There was no vote this game-turn, but three of you voted on something anyway. Why? Fall 1903 orders are due by noon on Halloween.

AUSTRIA TO GERMANY: Your moves, Kraut, fill me with wonderment,
They rot my teeth like a condiment.
They make me pass gas,
They're a pain in the ass,
So shove them right up your fundament.

HOLLAND TO RUHR AND DENMARK: Thanks for the support boys. But aren't you supposed to inform me about it or do I just have to guess?

ROME TO ~~PAR~~ ~~MA~~ BRE: Slam, Bam Thanky Ma'am

ROME TO PARIS: If you evacuate Portugal immediately, I will return Marseilles to you.

MOSCOW TO ROME: Are you playing France under an assumed name?

MUNICH: Since I'm without a friend, I've decided to suicide out against my worst enemy. Switzerland.

007 28 1979

79H

DUAL MONARCHY KING RETURNS. WAR WEARINESS APPARENT AS
FOUR DRAW/CONCESSION CALLS ARE MADE. BUT WILL THEY PASS
NOW THAT SPAIN HAS FALLEN TO THE EASTERN ALLIANCE?

~~1/11 2/1 1/11 1/1~~

Winter, 1908: France builds F BRE, Germany builds A KIE

SPRING, 1909

AUSTRIA (Hamill): A Vie-TYO; A BOH S A Vie-Tyo; A SIL S A Pru-Ber; A PRU-Ber;
A Gal-VIE; A Ukr-GAL; A WAR S A Sil; A LWN-StP; A MOS S A Lvn-
StP; F BLA H relentlessly.

ENGLAND (Mitchell): F Por-SPAsc

FRANCE (Brown): F BRE S F Mid; F MID & F IRI C A Wal-Por; A Wal-POR; A NWY S
GERMAN F STPnc; A GAS & A MAR S A Spa; A Spa S A Wal-Por/ann.

GERMANY (Kirchner): A KIE-Mun; A RUH S A Kie-Mun; A BUR S FRENCH A Mar; A BER H;
F BAL S A Ber; A MUN-Tyo; F STPnc H; F ENG S FRENCH F Mid

ITALY (Guajardo): A PIE-Mar; A VEN S AUSTRIAN A Vie-Tyo; F WES & F GLYO S ENGLISH
F Por-Spasc; F NAP-Mid; F Tus-TYN; F Tyn-TUN

There are calls for an AFGI draw, an AEI draw, and a concession to England. In view
of the popularity of the latter last time, NVR=YES to ALL of these. If more than
one passes, the draw containing the largest number of players will pass first. Your
votes may be contingent upon other votes, but if I can't figure out all the contingencies,
it will count as a general yes. To fight on, someone then needs to specifically vote
NO to all of these.

My thanks to Gary Howe for the S/B orders which were not needed (one free issue,
Gary). Press follows.

ROME-VIENNA: Whadju talkin' 'bout, honkie!

LISBON-EUROPE: There will always be an England (even if it is in Portugal)

"The English nation is never so great as in adversity"—Disraeli

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few"—Churchill

"For he might have been a Rooshian

A French or Turk or Proosian

Or perhaps Itali-an

But in spite of all temptations

To belong to other nations,

He remanins an Englishman." —W S Gilbert, HMS Pinafore

"If I should die, think only this of me:

That there's some corner of a foreign field

That is forever England. —Rupert Brooke, The Soldier

"Oh, to be in England, now that April's there." —Browning, Home Thoughts from Abroad

"In England there are sixty different religions, and only one sauce."

—Marquis Caraccioli

((More press on reverse))

Oh, and before I forget it again, FALL 1909, will be due with my mail received at
the office address MONDAY, November 5, 1979.

J.M.

Press 1979H

The great autocrats of Europe had gathered together at the former estates of Kaiser Kirchner in East Prussia for games and relaxation. Though the monarchs were officially at war, they maintained the customary decorum suitable to European royalty.

Bored with the usual formalities of the social milieu, the monarchs retired to a quiet study to play a game inspired by a futuristic novel of war in Indo-China. Meanwhile, the band played Viennese waltzes, while the fashionable debutants and rakish young officers danced. Suddenly the gay proceedings were interrupted by the stark clap of a pistol shot. Silence was followed by shocked murmurs, as officers burst into the study to inquire of the shot. As the door was flung open, the braver souls of the party ventured in, only to see the lifeless body of the Czar of Russia slumped to the floor.

"Pity," said the Archduke of Austria, as he adjusted the red sash around his forehead, taking care to see that the imperial Hapsburg emblem was centered.

"The Czar was always such a good sport," stated the Kaiser. "We really ought to do something in his memory. 'Don't you agree?'"

"Perhaps we should name the game after him," yawned the Archduke.

"An excellent suggestion! How about Russian Roulette."

"You are very clever, my dear Kaiser. I believe it is your shot."

"Oh, yes, of course."

The Kaiser took the revolver from the dead Czar's hand, placed another bullet in the chamber, spun the chamber ceremoniously, and pointed the weapon at his head. Drawing in a deep breath, the Kaiser jerked the trigger. Click!

"Ah," breathed the Kaiser. "Your shot," he beamed triumphantly.

The Archduke took the revolver in his hands and flipped open the chamber. He took a second round from the table and placed it in the chamber. Expertly, he slapped the chamber in place and spun it with the tips of his forefingers.

"Since we are a player short, I think it is appropriate that we add this second round. It has the initials KMA carved on it. A little joke, no doubt. Also, I think that we should up the stakes, so this time I'm putting up this fine estate of yours here in Prussia, which I now occupy, all of Silesia, and perhaps the Duchy of Warsaw. In exchange, you should offer me Bavaria and the Brandenburg Gate, which I would like very much for my garden. Agreed?"

"Agreed," gulped the Kaiser, flinching nervously.

The Archduke pointed the revolver at his head and squeezed the trigger. Click!

"Your shot," smiled the Archduke, as he passed the revolver over. As the Kaiser accepted the pistol his palms began to sweat....

176 Lexington Ave
New York, NY 10016

CURTIS GIBSON

nyc - 10/4/1979

the N. B. Bull. (not bad bull) #46 came yesterday. Nice to see my own messages well published. Nice to see K. B. still laughs at my argument because he can't answer it.

But I do agree with him that it wd be best to print my stuff as I spell it. No interpretation needed - only dolts cd need it. Save space too, as Breusspell is meant to do. The most intelligent readers wd soon adopt it then, & you myt go down in history as the publisher who started a revolution in the Eng. lingo spell. Myt be just in time to save the world, as so much of it is reluctant to make English the world language when it's at least phonetic & clumsiest in orthography, yet the world needs a world language, & Eng. is the logical choice (& the greatest language) except for its stupidly archaic spells.

In other words, when you see something new & better, use it! Xenophobes get little credit in history, no matter how nice & how hardwork they are, & rightly. It's those who've been there & still to be smarted up to xenophiles.

You misread the word 'decanic' as 'decay'. Boyt boys wd be hard put to guess what 'decay influence' I was referring to in my horoscope. 'Decanic' myt puzzle them too, but they cd ask one of their astrology-bug girl friends.

Terrorists & saboteurs & vandals of all sorts are making a monkey pile of our current age of affluence in America & Europe. Treach is to some sort, enjoys seeing how much damage one gink can do. It only takes a moron to wreck a train or start a million fire, & they then feel big! It shd teach our civilization the importance of genetic control. Even primitive tribes have generally survived because they wd not let an antisocial child be raised among them, not even one! If corporal pun. hasn't straightened one out by age 12 he shd be put 6 ft. under, they know.

p2/ 1979 CK is a real humdinger, + it press too. I've never seen a more interesting affair. I bet there's on some long dist. phony, as your short deadlines won't be likely to breed all the plotty. My pal Kelley sounds as tho he had plotted the gony script w/ Mitchell, but I guess it was Mitchell's scheme, + he must be good at calming an upset neighbor to get Jn. K. to be so confident of his good intentions.

But I assure you th allow black press herme, not helps. It can spice up a dull game, but th's a poor substitute for real wit + enterprise, ^{for} exercise of historical imaginatn. It's about as beneficial to th game as faked zines + phonye like Tretch are to th hobby. Same principles hold in all society: good rules of conduct + honesty leave us all free to exercise unlimited enterprise + imaginatn in beneficial directions, while lack of such rules or standards causes a fouled up smoky scene where very ltl constructive wll be accomplished.

Now U.S.A., whose great vitality + prosperity has enabled it for 150 yrs. to remain the one nation in th world almost free of inflatn, has at last begun to slide into th ditch, wch was th inevitable result of union labor's special inflationary privileges in F.D.R.'s Natl Labor Relations Act. It's now accelerating, + th's a thing th can't be stopped short of drastic actn, + our big Union Labor Hog wll rebel th moment it is so defied. The 1st Gt. Amer. Breakdown is at hand. Your zine + game wll all be interrupted, before year-end, by th unprecedented episode. Many months of violence + chaos!

Th astrology I referred to uses what is called th Ptolmaic system. The Chinese have one based on a 12 yr. cycle. By th one, we are in 'th year of th goat (or sheep, in No. China)', wch is supposed to be a yr of upsets + generally capricious conduct. E.g., Iran, Uganda, Nicaragua, + Cambodia have all seen ruthless tyrants butt-ended tyrants. Now U.S.A. is about to be upset too. Yours for th future, Gibby

Response to Gibson

((I think you're kind of going out on a limb by predicting 'many months of violence and chaos' to begin "by year's end". Personally, I think a little shaking up would be a good thing, but I think astrology is unadulterated bullshit. Still, even when these end-of-the-world predictions fail to come about, the dirge goes on. Doesn't really seem much different to me than the audacity of Tretick to apply for a GRAUSTARK game after Boardman's work in exposing and ejecting him.

On black press, you've hit on a sore point. Personally, I favor and promote black press, but recent excesses, primarily in 79lid, have instead produced embarrassment for me. In 77KS, my second game, it turned the game around early, and some of those who denounced it most, wrote and turned in the best. It was, for a while, a good deal more interesting than the game itself. Hopefully this will be the direction 79lid now takes under more stringent censorship. Most white press has always seemed exceptionally trite and bland; black press is at least more let-it-all-hang-out interesting.

I think you're wrong about CK. There is a lot of negotiating goes on over deadline, and the fast pace keeps interest up, unlike most monthlies about which you can plan, plot, negotiate, wait 2 to 5 weeks, forget, nmr, and whatnot. In these fast games, you just go,go,go. The main thing I use the phone for in mine is simply to learn the results faster, and from the 2 I'm running/have run, virtually all orders come in by mail, not phone (altho there was a VERY active period in late 79E where BOTH mail and calls were at a very high peak). The only real change I've seen is that all the hemming and hawing are discarded, and you get down to, and keep down to, the strict playing. Try one. \$4 to Jack Frost, jump in, play wild, and live it up before all that violence and chaos hit later on. You can be looking at 1904 before New Year's, while a crook (as you called him) (probably pretty darn close!) like Rowland probably won't PUBLISH but maybe once between now and Valentine's Day. (I'm in his 78AD, too dumb so far to resign).

Your straightforward remarks concerning genetic control date you. Such things smack of effectiveness, which flies in the face of modern liberal requirements that we create more ineffective bureaucracies to stifle all freedoms of decent people, while insuring total license for the deranged and deformed. In other times, the power of the State was used as an instrument of the people to knock the misfits into line, whether it be on the village or world scale; today, however, the power is used to shelter and encourage the flourishing of the deviant at the expense of the decent and normal, all under the euphemism of "equality". The people have been convinced that they are the equal of the lowest filth, so the order of the day is to move over and make room for all these other "equals", irregardless of their deviations or sadisms. After all, to 'judge' them for their deranged nature would smack of racism or some other such nastysim. It's not nice to lock up drunks, hang kidnappers, suppress perverts, or shoot traitors. If the psycho beside you gets his kicks watching blood spurt, it's only a case of "different strokes for different folks", and the power of the liberal Establishment, the ACLU, the UN, and Mark Berch are on HIS side, not yours. YOU had better watch out for having a gun to protect yourself. For a normal person to own, let alone carry, a gun, is a crime in the eyes of the liberal ideals that rule over us all these days; the only way to get around that is if you're black and a revolutionary or some such, in which case your brandishing a Thompson will be applauded as "ethnic pride" or "awakening racial heritage". If you're white, though, forget it. Whites are Original Sin incarnate, and your color brands you as guilty of all the wrongs in the world. You'd better get with it quick, because they are the wave of the future, as well as the present.))

G. J. J.

Letters

GREG COSTIKYAN (URF DURFAL)

P O Box 865, Brown U., Providence, RI 02912

Kind Sir;

In my last letter I said "there exist no pressing need for American manpower that only a draft can fill".

You responded by attacking that premise. Your argument was that a voluntary enlistee is not willing or eager to obtain the kind of technical expertise that modern warfare requires of those who wage it. How you come to the conclusion that a draftee would be more eager to get that technical training than a volunteer is beyond me.

You say that "the manpower that is raised via volunteers is pretty dubious". Presumably by this you mean that the volunteers the armed forces are currently getting are inferior in intelligence and education than the armed forces would get under a draft. That is a dubious premise. If you'll examine the record, you'll see that the number of Category II and III recruits have risen drastically since the end of the draft, and that the proportion of Category IV recruits has dropped drastically. The number of Category I recruits has remained about the same or dropped slightly; but you don't actually want Category I people as recruits (by and large)---you want them in the officer corps.

Consequently, the intelligence and education of the armed forces, on average, has RISEN since the end of the draft.

Yes, you need "decent people" to run a modern, technological military. And our armed forces are getting them under the All Volunteer Force. Whether you would get more "decent people" under a draft is dubious, unless you decided to draft only intelligent and educated people (which isn't likely to be a popular move).

You say: "We must 'stoop' to coercion and the like in order to stave off becoming slaves to systems far worse than the 'oppressive coercion' the draft represents in our own system." This is, in fact, a succinct analysis of why a wartime draft is justifiable. Under the current circumstances, in which the armed forces are getting the number and quality of personnel they need, this is not a justification of a peace-time draft.

Re Oaklyn/Tretick: It seems to me the position of any responsible GM is clear. I am selling a service; anyone who's willing to put up the money and abide by my rules can join my games. But at the first sign of misconduct in any of my games, I'll throw the culprit out. I would, of course, accept Oaklyn/Tretick, or Adolf Hitler, for that matter, as a player in my zine; but any violation of my house rules or the rules of Diplomacy would be sufficient reason to expell him.

Also; I am currently running a game which consists of nothing but people from the DC area. None of them are Oaklyn/Tretick (at least to my knowledge). Yes, there are lots of players from the DC area; and it's silly to force them to produce proof of existence. It's also silly to prohibit people from playing under a pseudonym---what's wrong with that? I understand that Kissinger has played a number of postal games pseudonymously.

More people have died in Ted Kennedy's car than in nuclear power plants,


Greg Costikyan

Letters

Reply to Costikyan

((Greg, no one cares whether Tretick plays under a pseudonym; it's that he deceives his subbers/players under the same by not mentioning, and indeed lying to cover up, his pathetic record. The one bright spot is that his GMing is SO atrocious that even a lot of his new people will get rapidly turned off by such a nut who only follows the game rules when he feels like it, fills in orders of theirs he dislikes with orders of his own under "Coffman" or "Andrews" or whatever, and hides the presence of his own son in his games (and said son's access to ongoing game records). Tretick is a louse who should be thrown out across the face of the hobby, and continues only to the extent that a lot of GMs who should know better still accept him anyway under your blythe pooh-poohing attitude, and this idea of "he hasn't screwed ME over yet, so I'll take him". There are a lot of game openings in this hobby, but I can't see anyone THAT desperate. I think it's just the general American idea of the-hell-with-everything as long as THEIR car/TV/supper isn't bothered. If you applied half the idealism to Tretick that you do to the draft, you'd be running a hit-man collection fund to solve this problem. (and I'd chip in a couple bucks).

The peacetime draft is necessary precisely because, even at the pathetic level of our standing Army, you simply cannot raise or maintain (if we were able to even once have) an army trained to handle and wage the technological war we must to offset the overwhelming enemy numbers, with the dregs and dolts we're putting in. Women, for instance, are fine and dandy for morale and windowdressing in peacetime, but the purpose of an army (let me make that, the Actual purpose of an army) is to wage war, not keep idle youth occupied and content, or to demonstrate the Administration's positive attitude toward the ERA. Only a draft will bring in a crosssection (or more of a crosssection) of your "average American" that will give us the best chance we have of pulling out a victory in any real war despite current appearances. The draftee will not be more eager for technical training; rather, he will be able to learn from it, rather than just being processed and pencil-whipped through a course and come out knowing nothing. It is ability, not attitude, that counts there. As to Category I's being officers, I must disagree. I think this bullshit of assuming that a degree makes for an officer while the others dig holes is nonsense. No one should be an officer without at least 4 years enlisted time. I would rather see units elect their officers than to take college bums and anoint them officers. They then "assume command" as a mandate from God to rule over the heathen, and treat the troops accordingly. In fact, they're goofs, and random-lot drawing would give us a better officer corps than what we have now. Finally, to wait for war to break out before you even start to draft is a luxury we cannot afford.)) J.M.

ROBERT OLSON

9100 E Harry #211, Wichita, KS 67207

Got your note & group of articles on my buddy Bernie (or is it my bernie Buddy?). So far my relations with him are OK and the players in 1979SS appear to be authentic—none of them from Maryland, anyway. So I will persevere. I rather like Oaklyn's flaky writing style and would like to play against him sometime.

I don't understand, if all the charges are true, what Oaklyn-Tretick hopes to accomplish with all this. Money? Fame? A big joke on the hobby? What?

PS If you want to investigate malpractice, how about a warning to people about FLYING BUFFALO INC of Scottsdale, Arizona—they run Dip PHM by computer at about 6 or 7 times the price Oaklyn charges and I hear Dip turns are running about 8-9 weeks apart now. I play STARWEB and that's about 9 weeks. Their advertising indicates 3 weeks!!!

((I've never heard anything good about FBI, but they seem to draw their players from other game areas. Most people playing FB Dip have no idea a functioning hobby exists, and those that do don't play with FB. If I had FBI's mailing list, I'd be glad to help, or even just the names of the other players in your game with them. I'll send them a recent Need-A-Game list.

As to Buddy's motives, that's the only mystery left. I simply ascribe them to personal motives of his own. What do you think of his current love-and-holy-light theme? I'm beginning to suspect he may have gone off the deep end, anymore.)) J.M.

Letters

BRUCE LINSEY (THE VOICE OF DOOM) 71 Hudson Terrace Apts, Newburgh, NY 12550

First, I wish to touch on the issue of CLAW & FANG, since I'm the one who inadvertantly seems to have started a string of comments about it. Listen, folks, CLAW & FANG is a GOOD zine to play in (unless you're in a situation like Mark Berch's, with a GGM and no phone orders) and also a damn good one to read as well. Further, I think my original worry that Don Horton would screw up the game by inserting Tretick as a standby was unfounded. I may be wrong, but I think it's only Conrad ((von Metzke)) who's doing this, and not Don. Anyway, Don did assure me verbally that this wont happen to my C&F game.

Second, ... my nightmare came true and ST GEORGE folded. I hope someday to have my zine half as good as his was.

Third, I'd like to comment that I'd prefer to see winter/spring combinations rather than fall/winter as you're doing in the blind game. By the way, don't you think you're allowing some pretty raw stuff in that game? Whoever's writing some of that stuff must be pretty sick. Black press is OK, I guess, but does it have to be like that? But anyway, I think winter/spring is MUCH easier to handle.

BMM Questions: can we make our orders conditional on opponents orders that we could not see? ((No)) How about conditional on opponents entering our home country? ((Via an off-season retreat, yes. I will try to inform you in time if such occurs.)) If we are dislodged from, say, Bulgaria, are we told by whom? ((No. However, if you owned Bulgaria, you would be informed of what type unit and nationality entered it)). How about if we are dislodged from, say, the Western Med? ((You're SOL)))

Let me know how you like THE VOICE OF DOOM.

((I thought it was about the best prospect seen of late, altho VOLKERKISHER BEOBACHTER or whatever its called is also good. You may be a top in circulation shortly with that kind of start, 650 samples. Maybe I could put in BB as an insert as Berch did with DD in DW?

You're right on the seasons, and the call was adjusted.

I have always agreed that C&F was a good reading zine, and that it is among the most reliable, second only to GRAUSTARK I'd say. However, having had 3 of 4 GGMs drop out on me there, and the very short time between issue-receipt and next deadline, it is not all that hot for play, as you have the short negotiating time of a fast game but the long, dead waits in between of a monthly. Also, it seems LOTS of GGMs who should know better, such as McLendon and Kendter, are letting "Oaklyn" into their games. This way Bernie can gain respectability among the others via play intercourse, and make a good comeback in spite of his exposure as a crook, thief, liar, and fraud. Makes you wonder if it's even worth it. Maybe do like that incompetent Reges and say if you can't lick 'em, join 'em?(Or maybe after ruining his reputation with the ATO collapse, FRONT de FRAUD is the only place that would accept him?))) J.M.

KONRAD BAUMEISTER

11416 Parkview Lane, Hales Corners, WI 53130

You repeatedly complain about your petty lost \$3 to McDonald. I happen to KNOW McDonald was playing Dip as early as 1975 (when Tretick had been inactive for some time) and played for 2 years before Tretick's reappearance! I spoke to BOTH over the phone on the same day—they are quite different. The reason McDonalds' zine folded was indeed sickness—if you had what he does, you'd fold, too. Who CARES why Tretick defends him? Who cares about McDonald? If you've been ripped off as much as I have, you wouldn't care anymore. Poor John.

((Your poor, sick McDonald, too deathly ill to return sub payments when he's folded, is still well enough to play and enter new games in buddy Bernie's zine, though. They may well be different, just like there really may be an 11-yr-old named Steven Andrews, but to me, he and the other thief Bernie are still assholes. If you don't like hearing me call 'em as I see 'em, you'll just have to skip reading here.)) J.M.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR ... from H. D. Bassett
at. 3, Lake Road
Newtown, CT 06470

To Whom It May Concern:

Inasmuch as there is a concerted effort underway to eliminate Bernie Oaklyn from the publishing and gamesmastering field, I am taking a part in his behalf.

I have been playing in Bernie's gamezine since its first game started in February 1978 (Bernie started publishing in October 1977). During that time, I have seen no more gamesmaster errors in his gamezine than in any other gamezine I have been playing in.

If he does indeed play three powers in his own game, 1978 AY, as some persons seem to be saying lately, and can't do any better than they have, then he needs that advantage and should have it in all of his games.

However, I have received letters from each of those three players that Bernie is supposed to be, and feel strongly that they are the three separate persons they claim to be. Diplomacy players in their own right.

Publishing a Dippy Zine is not my idea of a profitable venture, considering the time spent--nor are the game fees that Bernie charges large enough for anyone to consider it worthwhile attempting to milk the hobby that way but apparently there are those who are worried about just such a possibility. (I have had one Zine touted in Diplomacy World to fold and disappear with my money and gamezine but no line and cry has reached my ears on that one--it is a small risk and one which we are all exposed to when we subscribe to a new Zine--or even to an old established one--there are rarely any safeguards.)

Some folks may be more open to risk taking than others and perhaps that would be reflected in the style of play seen in a new Zine--but that's another subject. To provide a cushion for those who don't like risks and in order to have a degree of security not normally found in other Zines, I have agreed to hold funds in escrow for Bernie to guarantee the performance of his Zine. Bernie has sent \$50.00 in the form of a Bank Cashier's Draft to me to hold so players would have some assurance of a degree of security in an otherwise insecure world. These funds will be used to continue games in progress and to provide refunds to subscribers should Bernie's Zine come to an untimely end.

Sincerely,

(Signed) H. D. Bassett

Dear Mark:

I do intend to make some further investigations into the identity matter. BUT in the meantime I believe in second chances and also will offer whatever protection I can to anyone who might be otherwise victimized.

Dear Mr. H.D. Bassett,

Thank you for a copy of your recent open letter.

I am sorry to hear that a Zine, touted in DW, folded on you. Please remember that being touted in DW does not "strengthen" a Zine. Nor are its editor's somehow president. DW, as, after all, just a Zine, published by a human being. But I know how much this hurts. In the first issue of my own Zine, I praised a Zine which had been quite regular, and whose GM I knew quite well. Yet it folded on me, a move which killed all the games but one (the one that I was in, which was saved only as a result of a bitter struggle on my part to free the game from the wreckage of the Zine).

Having a third party hold a security deposit is a fine idea. Indeed, not-fully-established Zines (which by hobby experience is less than 2 years old) are often handicapped by the fact that others do not trust them yet. Yours is a fine plan for helping such a Zine.

However, this is not really the issue with Oaklyn and Phil. While it is true that Trelick was probably the only publisher in Dippy history to start new games even as he was folding old ones, the furor about Oaklyn has nothing to do with whether he might fold all his games. Anyone might do that.

Similarly, it's not the issue whether or not Alan, Andrews, and Edwards are "separate persons". I have not the slightest doubt that they are, and I have never seen any evidence to the contrary.

What is the issue is GM integrity. It is the very cornerstone on which the postal hobby is built, and is an indispensable feature. This is because the GM has almost unlimited power --- and no one peering over his shoulder. It is absolutely essential that the players be able to trust the GM. That means that all players must be treated exactly the same. If there is some special relationship between players, that the GM is aware of, all must be informed. The GM must in no way participate in the actual play of the game. Sadly, Oaklyn just doesn't believe in these rules apply to him. Let's get down to specifics.

Jack Frost has stated that material from Steven Andrews and Brian Edwards "all have the same typewriter and scrawl used by Buddy-Bernie". When I accused Buddy-Bernie of being these persons he said they were kids that he had to help with their mail. IF this is true, then Oaklyn's conduct is totally unacceptable. I do not know how long you have been in the postal hobby, but I assure you that my experience postal GM will tell you that for a GM to write a letter for a player in his game is unthinkable. If such a thing happened in one of my games, I would immediately move to have it transferred, and if that failed I would resign, regardless of my position on the board.

Second, there is the matter of his GMing a game containing his own son. This violates the notion that all players be of equal standing. It just isn't going to work that way with father and son. We are talking about people, not robots. Let me illustrate with an incident recounted to me at this year's DIXCON by Len Kestler, Sr. It seemed that Bernie was about to NMR in one of Lee's variants, so Lee put in a call. Bernie wasn't home, but James Alan was there. When Lee expressed disappointment, James pressed him to give the game number, and Alan could give him the orders, so he had access to Bernie's files. When Lee asked about the games in which Lee was the GM, and James was the player, James said that he just didn't look at those.

Sure. You can believe that if you like; it doesn't matter. The point here is that for a son to have access to his father's house, and what's in it, is perfectly natural. For a player to be able to see a GM's files is just not acceptable.

Third, there is the matter of the fact that, at least ~~James Alan~~, Steven Andrews and James Alan lived at the same address. Bernie obscured this fact by having Steven pick up his mail at the Cooper address. Any game with two people at the same address would be considered irregular. For a GM to hide this fact from the other players is just plain dishonest.

I assume that you are familiar with the details of most of the above, having received DD #23 and #24.

In your note at the end, you made reference to some "further investigations." I suggest the following agenda, to add to whatever other items you are considering:

1. The Frost Charges, mentioned above
2. See if you can get some positive identification out of Oaklyn that he really is who he says he is, and that his continued stories about Trelick being in Oak Ridge are not just more lies. I have not succeeded in getting any proof out of him.
3. Write Don Horton, 16 Jordan Court Sacramento Calif 95826 to get the story about why Oaklyn is no longer a guest GM in Clav and Fang.

You say that "I believe in second chances." So do I. But Trelick has had his second chance, as Oaklyn, and he has blown it. The way I was ruined, when you made a mistake, and wish to change, the first thing you must do is admit to yourself that you have made the mistake. Then you resolve not to repeat it. I see absolutely no edge of this in Oaklyn. When as Trelick, he was heavily criticized for putting his own son in his games, and for interfering in the operation of his games. The exact same charges are now valid against Oaklyn. Three of his first four games have Alan in them as a player. And he just does not seem to be interested in stopping this process of deception. For example, he has recently invented a tale that Trelick was a president of the IDA. More lies. In this regard, I have enclosed copies of my recent correspondence with Oaklyn, for your perusal.

Finally, back to your \$50 deposit idea. I truly regret to say that I personally do not approve. The reason is quite simple. Such a plan may tend to entice new players to play in ELM. So far as I am concerned, this would be very undesirable. Trelick/Oaklyn is a dishonest and unethical GM, and I am opposed to anything that will help him fill more games. I hope that you will reconsider your activities in this regard.

Yours very truly,

(Henceforth, I'll try to be a little firmer.) For those of you who don't know me very well, I'm a one-track mind. My father calls it "single-mindedness," which is closely related to obstinance and stubbornness. Hitler was quite obstinate. So was Charles Manson. So does Patrick. Hence, I'm a somewhat capable of rational thought on occasion. But I think that if I have a purpose must be extremely careful and aware of what I'm doing. Look what it's gotten me. I've got Hitler, or Manson, or Hitler, or Manson, or Hitler, or Manson.

4. 1. LE FRONT...worth getting? Not really. Even if "osflyn" were real, I would not recommend his 'zine to a novice, not to anyone else. Physically, it is a good product, yes the alien work is well done. But the content is all but unreadable. Tricket's writing style has always been labored and hyperbolic to the point of silliness. He is like a little boy who has just discovered big words but hasn't the slightest idea how to use them. The result is virtually unreadable, especially for anyone who has the slightest regard for English composition. As a professional writer, I always bore him. I don't

I do not see how the constant babbling of the obvious can be of any help to anybody. A player, novice or otherwise, really needs to read more informative and sophisticated stuff than Tretick writes. There are numbers of infinitely better outlets to play in...CLAW & FANG, GRAUSTARK, FOL SI FIE, THE DRAGON AND THE LAMB, WHY MET, KURITANIA, and so on. Information in general about the game is available there as well as in DIPLOMACY WORLD, DIPLOMACY DIGEST, and my own Game's Guide to DIPLOMACY (which Avalon Hill will be happy to sell you for \$3.95).

Frankly, I would not play in Tretick's 'zine (if I played postal games, which I don't these days) if somebody paid me to do it. If I wanted to join a postal game, I would immediately go to GRAUSTARK or CLAW & FANG or BOUTUS BULLEIN. I see no reason why any player should have to put up with the sort of drivel Tretick writes when he can be assured of a well-run game and something half-way intelligent to read elsewhere.

Final note: Back to Tretick's love of the lie. One of his best is how "Oaklyn" met Tretick, which he has just perpetrated again in DIPLOMACY WORLD. I have in my possession a card from Don Miller in which Don states (a) he never heard of "Oaklyn" and (b) in any event would never have introduced him to Tretick. If "Oaklyn" is the real thing, and if there is no hoax going on, why is it necessary for him to lie about how he met Tretick? Answer that one, Eric, before you pledge any money to his support.

Rod Walker
(1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024)

ROBERT J BAKER, JR.

15501 NE 10 St #104F, Bellevue, WA 98007

Thanks for the warning about "Oaklyn" and for the collection of evidence concerning the Oaklyn/Tretick thing. I had long since determined to my own satisfaction that Oaklyn was an incompetent and unethical GM. Understand that at the time I was totally unaware of any of the Oaklyn/Tretick controversy. Here are some of the reasons for my conclusions.

Oaklyn has repeatedly reported my moves incorrectly in FLD (I am France in his 1978WW). In subsequent seasons, moves continue from a position that would have been reached by the moves that I actually submitted, not the moves reported in FLD. There is ample evidence that this has been the case with the moves of other players in 1978WW.

James Alan came into 1978WW as Russia (standby). The first couple of seasons after his entering the game, Alan made some moves that suggest strongly that he had knowledge of his opponents' moves. I remarked to the Italy and Germany players (Dwayne Shreve and Charles Price, respectively) that I thought there was a good chance that Oaklyn was making Alan's moves.

There are numerous other little incidents that have no significance on their own, but collectively they generate a feeling for what is going on. I have for quite some time now been calling Oaklyn just about anything except Buddy Tretick.

For what it's worth, Oaklyn contacted me after John Boardman gave my name in Graustark as having inquired about postal diplomacy. Oaklyn is the only GM who contacted me. Boardman had just closed entry to his games and I was interested in playing another, so... I hope that responsible representatives of the hobby will make knowledge of such as Oaklyn available to newcomers.

Again, thanks for the collection of Oaklyn/Tretick info. It has been very interesting reading, and collectively is rather conclusive evidence that Oaklyn is far from what and who he represents himself as.

PS More of my babbling—another little shred of "evidence". "Oaklyn" does not hesitate to offer "proof" when he can prove something. As I mentioned in the enclosed letter, Oaklyn repeatedly reported my moves incorrectly in FLD. Each time, I wrote to him, calling to his attention that the moves he reported were not the moves I had sent to him. I never received a reply to these notices—until the one time the moves really were the moves I had submitted—and had recorded incorrectly in my records. Oaklyn did not hesitate to send a repro copy of the moves that he received from me (along with some derogatory remarks on my character—which should prove that I am not Oaklyn, one of his pseudonyms, proteges, sons, etc.—besides, I have a birth certificate, etc.). If you see any use for adding any of this to your "evidence" collection—feel free to do so.

1273 Crest Dr.
Encinitas, CA 92024
10 October 1979

AN OPEN LETTER TO JOHN BOARDMAN

Dear John:

If you expect Tretick to sign your "admission" letter, you are more a fool than I had thought. You should know, as I know, that he will persist in the "Oaklyn" charade to the bitter end. The enormous commitment he has made to this hoax, not to mention his own peculiar personality, renders that course necessary for him.

Naturally it would be better if Tretick owned up, but in essence he is trying to escape his past. He ought to know that the hobby can be quite forgiving of one's past mistakes if one admits them...after all, nobody warns people away from GRAUSTARK because you used the "Eric Blake" pseudonym to win 1966C by playing two positions. And if Conrad von Metzke or I were to resume publishing, each of us would be the first to point out...look, I have this tendency to drop... So long as potential players are properly warned of any risk they might be taking, I doubt any wrong is being done. In any event, I doubt anybody would start up games and then disappear simply to con people out of money. There isn't that much involved...and considering the sheer bulk of LE FRONT.... it appears Tretick is putting out more than he's taking in.

But if the publisher himself will not warn prospective players, then perhaps it is right for the hobby itself to do so. Hence the so-called "hate mail", I suppose. But such things can go too far. I do not believe that Tretick will necessarily default on this second occasion. Danger signs there are, yes. But knowing that he is a neurotic personality, it may be that we are putting him under more strain than is strictly necessary. Your snide insinuations that he intends to rip people off (and that, at least, is certainly not true) are not helping.

I can think of better reasons for warning people off LE FRONT.... For one thing, there are many better GMs and 'zines, not the least of which are yourself and GRAU. For another, plowing through the drivel in LE FRONT... is a pain.

I would like to suggest, therefore, that if any letters are being sent to players to warn them off Tretick, they be mildly worded. It is enough to recall Tretick's past history, to show that "Oaklyn" is Tretick, and to suggest that the potential risk be avoided...and to mention the many better alternatives that exist. It should also be suggested to Tretick that if he comes clean and warns potential players himself, that the hobby would be glad to assist him in his efforts to reestablish himself. That would be a fair and considerate position for all concerned.

Sincerely,

cc: John Michalski

Rod Walker

Nikita Who?

Perennial alarm over American students' ignorance of the history of their country may be allayed by reports from the Communist world. There are, it turns out, similar blind spots in the minds of youth in the Soviet bloc. A recent poll of highly placed young Hungarians showed that almost a third of them couldn't tell how Stalin

fits into the Communist past. Nikita Khrushchev was identified in a variety of roles, including that of "a United States President in the early 1950's" and "the first man in space." One in six students could not identify Lenin.

One-World advocates, who maintain that what people everywhere have in common greatly outweighs what divides them, may now add to the evidence this universal bond of generational ignorance.

N.Y. TIMES
9/30/79 courtesy
of Boardman

AN EDITORIAL

The Military Balance 1979-80

EACH year, in early September, the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London publishes "The Military Balance" for the current and coming years. Through an exclusive arrangement with IISS, AIR FORCE Magazine has reprinted the Institute report in our December issue for the past eight years. We will publish it again in December 1979.

The Institute, as most of our readers know, is an independent center for research in defense-related areas and is universally recognized as the leading authority in its field. Its reputation has been built on adherence to cold facts and, where judgments are made, on cautious conservatism. To paraphrase a TV commercial, when IISS speaks, people listen.

In the past, we have reserved comment on "The Balance" until it appeared in AIR FORCE Magazine. Because of some unusually significant reporting and analysis, we are breaking that precedent.

The Institute reports this year that in the strategic area, "the capabilities of the Super-Powers will continue to increase despite SALT II, if asymmetrically. On the Soviet side, older land-based missiles are being replaced by more accurate systems carrying greater numbers of warheads. Extrapolation of this trend will create a theoretical vulnerability of US land-based systems by the mid-1980s which greater hardening cannot redress. . . . Given the time lag inherent in the production and deployment of new strategic systems and the new constraints introduced by SALT II, it will be eight to ten years before the US could again restore a degree of invulnerability to their land-based deterrent forces. . . ."

That means the deterrent value of US strategic forces will be pretty much limited—by 1982, we believe—to preventing an attack on the US itself. This unwelcome wind of change will have turned inside out the nuclear umbrella that has protected US allies and external interests. That leads to another significant IISS judgment.

Until this year, it generally has been accepted that the US had some 7,000 tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, compared to about 3,500 for the USSR—an apparently comfortable margin that should give the Kremlin long thoughts about starting trouble in Europe (or other theaters, for that matter) or about first use of nukes if a conventional war were launched.

Now the Institute finds that instead of the rough parity reported in our March 1979 issue (p. 47), "there currently exists a 25% advantage to the Warsaw Pact in terms of *deliverable* [our emphasis] warheads likely to be deployed in a European conflict and a moderate 13% advantage to the Warsaw Pact in terms of the effectiveness of those warheads when measured against the three parameters of survivability, assurance of penetration, and flexibility. . . . We note that this balance is

sustained by American central systems (*Poseidon* SLBMs) allocated to SACEUR for Europe's defense but counted in SALT. If these central systems are removed from the equation, the Warsaw Pact advantage rises to almost 60% in both numbers and effectiveness. Continued deployment of SS-20 intermediate-range ballistic missiles . . . will alter the balance substantially in favor of the Warsaw Pact if NATO's Theater Nuclear Forces are not increased or modernized or both."

It follows from this that if US strategic and theater nuclear forces are both neutralized, potential conflict between the superpowers or their alliances is most likely to be at the conventional level, where the USSR has an advantage in military manpower and a wide quantitative lead in offensive equipment.

For example, the USSR's inventory of tanks, according to "The Balance," stands at about 50,000, compared to 10,500 for the US, and the Soviet Navy continues to emphasize amphibious ships and attack submarines. Finally, the Soviet Union is stockpiling (our term) large quantities of up-to-date military equipment in such strategic locations as Libya, South Yemen, Ethiopia, and Vietnam along the West's oil and raw materials supply routes.

From this evidence and a great deal more comparative data in the new "Military Balance," we find strong support for our belief that the USSR is implementing a carefully integrated global strategy, elements of which claim fleeting public attention but which, as a unified strategy, has been obscured by the shadows of détente, oil, and inflation.

In ten years, the USSR has moved patiently, step by step, from strategic inferiority to parity-plus, headed for superiority; from gross inferiority in theater nuclear forces to parity-plus, headed for superiority; from parity in conventional forces to superiority; and from a land-locked continental nation to a global presence, headed for global hegemony. "Hair by hair," as the Russian proverb goes, "you can pluck the whole beard."

This outbound passage from military inferiority has cost the Soviet people dearly—from eleven to fifteen percent of each year's gross national product. But the Kremlin's goal of world domination has been judged by the few who rule to be worth the sacrifices of the many who serve.

The relative decline of Western power is not likely to be reversed by anything short of heroic measures. We do not see such measures in the immediate offing, but there is a growing grass-roots recognition—at least in this country—that all is not well. That's a first step. If the people will tell their leader where they want to go, perhaps the leader will lead them.

—JOHN L. FRISBEE, EDITOR

938 Fairmont Ave.

Salisbury, NC 28144

From the Nothing to Do With Diplomacy Department we have the following excerpt from a recent Jack Anderson column:

SOLAR SHUFFLE: If you think solar energy will get you out of the clutches of Big Oil, don't bet on it. While publicly pooh-pooing the future importance of solar power, the oil companies are quietly buying up controlling interests in many of the most important solar corporations. Recently, for example, Amoco bought into Solarex Corp., one of the world's largest manufacturers of solar cells. Shell is the largest stockholder of Solar Energy Systems. And other oil giants, including Exxon, Mobil and Arco, have also invested heavily in fledgling solar industry.

With oil and oil products being as much of a necessity as water and electricity, what action is being taken toward serious government regulation of the oil industry? Silly question, I suppose.

((My response)).

Dear John,

OCT 3 1979

I read with interest your Jack Anderson excerpt and comment in DOGS #2. I'm glad to see new pubbers following the tradition of using non-Dip stuff as filler and conversation stuff, as straight Dip makes a zine too much of a mechanical printout. A little controversy spices it up. With luck, it will even generate some discussion, which in turn provides additional filler if you have the need/desire. In that vein, here's my commentary.

You said "What action is being taken toward serious government regulation of the oil industry? Silly question, I suppose." Well, in a word, yes. Silly on two counts. First, government is incapable of regulating ANYTHING effectively, itself in particular. Whether you want to look at Amtrak, Medicare, the Post Office, you-name-it, the more the government has its bloated fingers into the pie, the more screwed up the "pie" is. There are no exceptions, here or abroad, now or in the past portions of the 20th century.

Second, no steps are being taken toward more "serious government regulation" of the oil industry because if they took two more steps in that direction, the industry would be totally nationalized. Tell me, John, what other industries in this country, aside from the monopoly-utilities, have the government telling them what they will be able to charge for the goods/(services) they produce, month by month? A good part of my JOB here with Harper, a small to middle-sized drilling and exploration company, is to monitor those prices given us by Uncle Sam and verify our receipt of same for the oil and gas we find and sell. Whether you drill for oil, import oil, warehouse oil, transport oil, or refine or retail it, the government is your silent but dominant partner. If you need to blow your nose, it is only according to the schedule put out in the latest **FEDERAL REGISTER**.

Next, the quote from Anderson. Jack has his place, as he often exposes things that ought to be exposed. Unfortunately, he has a daily column to put out as well, so when there are no legitimate exposés to run that day, well, put in something that sort of LOOKS like it. This item you quote is a good example: a nice exciting piece on the face of it, one that panders to the ignorance and prejudices of the public, but one which sadly fails upon a little thought. To wit: Do you remember when milk used to come in glass bottles? (Probably not, but it will seem recent to your parents). Anyhow, take their word or mine for it, it did. Then someone came up with waxed cartons. Now, companies that thought they were in the glass bottle industry found themselves in trouble, and mostly died. Other companies figured that they were not in the glass bottle business, even though that's what they were making; rather, they figured they were in the milk container business, so as the product changed, so did they. These companies survived.

Now, you ask, what does that have to do with the price of tomatoes in Canton? Well, it's like this. In twenty years, there isn't going to BE much more oil or gas to be found, certainly not enough, cheap enough, to be wasted as motor fuel. We in the industry can see that now. So the big outfits are asking themselves, are we in the oil business, or the energy business? Three decades from now, the "Oil companies" will be gone (in the US); ENERGY companies, solar, atomic, or whatever, will be alive and kicking. Mr Anderson chooses to ignore this, of course, as it would mess up his Exposé of the Day. It is reality nonetheless. It is more fun to imply as he does, that the "Big bad oil companies" are out to screw you tomorrow just like today; in fact, they, like any good Diplomacy player, are looking beyond the next season, and are doing all they can to be sure they're around 2 and 3 decades down the line. If they're switching to solar, coal, and atomic businesses, so what? Would you rather the GOVERNMENT get into it? Who else can afford to?

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm a consumer too, driving a 13 mpg Thunderbird 21 miles to work and 21 miles BACK each day. So if you and others in Mr Anderson's crowd want to nationalize the oil industry, I won't complain, believe you me! For like I tell 'em here at the office, if Uncle Sam takes over, great. I'll put in my 2 years to make Career status, and never lift another finger again (except for donuts, coffee, and maybe cranking out my BRUTUS BULLETIN). I may even rejoin the Guard to be a Double Dipper!

J.M.

CAMPAIGN STATEMENT from Bill LaFosse, (TORONTO TELEGRAM), candidate for President of the United States.

Dear John,

Today I am pressing through the last few zines I have received. Reading them back to back gives an interesting comparison to different zines. Anyway, it's with interest I read all these letters in BB. Their content suggests you will print pretty well anything. Since your zine is supporting my candidacy(?) in the upcoming American election, I thought I'd write a bit on behalf of myself in hopes of picking up a few votes from those readers of yours who have been blessed with sufficient age to vote:

Long enough has the United States been in the charge of men who are far older than the average age of the population. Just once let us elect a man who appeals to a broad mass of younger voters, one who offers an immediate and sweeping solution to the majority of the ills which infect this great country. A few of my platform statements:

Problems plague and abound in these unsettled days. Unemployment, poor worker productivity, energy crisis, reduced military effectiveness, racial problems, and of course inflation.

Picture the United States with no unemployment, production costs reduced to the point where productivity can suffer considerably but product cost is still competitive, the energy crisis eliminated, full military enrollment, and racial problems eliminated. The solution is simple. All non-whites would become slaves, the property of the first person to attach a collar to them.

Unemployment eliminated, as jobs now held by non-whites could go to whites, extra slave labor could be given make-work work, at the cost of only maintaining them.

Work productivity would profit as dirt cheap labor could be plugged into dull factory work. Even assuming a considerable loss in production via black labor, labor would be so cheap as to assure high profit.

The energy crisis would fade out as all those non-whites lost their cars and began sleeping in unheated barns. Extra slave labor could also be used to turn energy-producing turbines.

(Continued),

The military could economically be boosted with black slave recruits who would be economically rewarded with a night with a black slave girl. (Ugly ones only).

Racial problems would change in meaning overnight. A new racial problem could be "there to install the black outhouse", a far cry from being robbed.

I consider Chicanos to be non-white and therefore liable for slavery.

Picture an America without those obese, repugnant, overweight pigs slopping up the sidewalks. I would propose an amendment to the Constitution stripping the human rights away from all those grossly obese, stripping them of all protection from the law. (Grossly obese being described as anyone weighing more than 4 times in pounds their height in inches. E.g., a 6 ft person = 72" x 4 = 288 lbs., a large margin for those who put on weight easy.)

I propose citizen's have their height measured at age 21 and their maximum allowable weight, using the formula above, tattooed onto their foreheads. If you saw a person in violation of his personal weight limits, citizens would be OBLIGED BY LAW to throw darts at these offenders.

More at a later date.

THE NEXT PRESIDENT BILL CLAFOSSE —

CONVENTION REVIEW

This is reprinted from Dave Grabar's ITALIANO PRIBE #39 at his request. IP carries Holocaust, WWII, and ?. Samples available from Dave at 12861 Ave 18½, Chowchilla, CA 93610. Dave Pilant was in my office and asked "What's an Italiano Preeb?" to which I replied that I thought it translated into Italian privy, or some such. He then added, "I didn't think Italians USED privvies!" Responses can be sent to Pilant (Irish, by the way) at 3801 SE 23 St, Del City, OK 73115, with a carbon to me for publication. *

PACIFIC CON REVIEW

[illegible]

First off, I will start with the bad points. IDIOTS put together the registration. Pre-registered so you won't have to wait in any lines. So what do they do? I can't believe this. ONE box with nametags for all preregistered people. Those who don't pre-register get 3 different tables with 2 people per table. Therefore, I get in line. In the preregistered line, there are a minimum of 150 people. I waited in line for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Rick Shatto, who came with me, went to the non-pre-registered line. He was in in 10 minutes.

Fine and dandy. We got inside. Now the tournament events. WHAT! Another line. We had to verify our positions. But, the non-pre-registered people were all in front of me. Thus, they filled the tournament spots first. Those who pre-registered had to get what was left.

I got into a tournament at last. And, who's in charge? Gee, I don't know. Some guy came in the room and said, the AH Classics tournament will begin. Pick a partner and tell me the winner. He turned around and left. I ended up coordinating the tournament, signing up players and setting up a player's chart.

Now for the BIGGER! The Diplomacy tournament. I cannot believe what I saw. The tournament started OK. The point system was not bad. And then it happened. Some DAMN IDIOT NAMED PARAMETER (the guy who "won") MESSED UP EVERYTHING. He had 17 centers, and

* This introductory note added to thank Dave for his questioned decision as to whether I would pass Bill's obesity test!! J.M.

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and the response was "Players should regulate their own games."

knowingly in front of Jim.

When I called him on the same thing, he said his was different.

manipulation that went on. There were some outstanding players that were not recognized.

I didn't know in the process. I just took it over to prove it could be done. Jim

placed somewhere in the top 8.

night. And you could see, in the other way, that it was a night.

-Dave Grabar